

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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NCAE SUPPORTS GOV. EASLEY'S BUDGET PLAN

RALEIGH - The North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) supported Gov. Mike Easley's budget plan on Saturday by passing three resolutions in their Representative Assembly.

"We are one of a handful of states that are making real progress in education," said Easley. "Even in tough economic times, we have increased our investments in our public schools, while other agencies have had their budgets cut by as much as 15 percent. My budget will continue that progress and I am pleased to have the support of our education community."

The following resolutions were passed:

Resolution 15 - The 2003 NCAE Representative Assembly asks the legislature to eliminate the sunset on the half-cent sales tax that is due to expire on June 30, 2003.

Resolution 16 - The 2003 NCAE Representative Assembly encourages the N.C. General Assembly to pass a budget soon using the Governor's budget as a blueprint. They ask that the budget be passed by June 30, 2003.

Resolution 18 - The 2003 NCAE Representative Assembly reiterates its support of a lottery with the proceeds going to supplement, not supplant, public education funding, and the Representative Assembly directs the Association leaders to begin immediate lobbying for passage of the lottery.

"NCAE appreciates the Governor's focus on education and his effort to protect the classroom from harmful cuts," said Carolyn McKinney, president of NCAE. "NCAE understands the importance of keeping the state's tax structure in place in order to avoid deeper cuts to education, which would undermine the progress we have made in recent years."

Recently, North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry (NCCBI), the state's chamber of commerce, announced its support for the Governor's budget reform proposals and his 2003-04 budget framework.

The NCCBI Executive Committee announced its support for Easley's proposals to cap state spending growth, to limit the length of legislative sessions, and to enact a line-item veto. NCCBI also supports the level of cuts recommended in the Governor's 2003-05 budget proposal and will not oppose the proposed delay in scheduled tax cuts.

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